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REMARKS

All of the Claims 1-29 are subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 5-6, 10, 12-14 and 17-23 are rejected under 35 USC § 112. Claims 1-3, 5 and 9-20 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b). Claims 4-8, 11, 13, 15-16 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a). The restriction requirement and the rejections are deemed to be overcome by the amendments to the claims and the remarks to follow.

Election/Restriction

Applicant hereby affirms the election to prosecute Claims 1-23 in this application reserving the right to file a divisional application for the subject matter of Claims 24-29.

35 USC § 112

This rejection is believed to be overcome by the amendments to Claims 5-6, 10, 12-14 and 17-23.

35 USC § 102(b)

All of the claims are amended to recite a system for treatment of a conveyor belt which includes a sump basin with a solution, at least one rinse spray bar that is not submersed below the solution. Proper basis for this amendment is seen at reference number 2 in FIG. 2 of the drawing and at the last line of paragraph 0020 of the specification.

This feature is not found in either Tanaka, et al. (USPN 5,368,650) or Terry (USPN 6,050,391) of record. In Tanaka, et al. the spray bars are in the sump solution. There is no disclosure of any rinse bars nor their advantages. Terry discloses spray nozzles 18 which are disposed over the upper and lower surfaces of conveyor belt 17. They are connected to the cleaning element 15 in sump 20. Cleaning solution is recirculated from the sump 20 to the spray nozzles 18. There is no separate rinse spray bar nor its advantages. Reconsideration is requested.

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Neither Malmberg, et al. (USPN 5,598,915), Virippil, et al. (USPN 6,360,874) nor EP 58, 113 023 teach or suggest the missing teaching of the rinse spray bar. Reconsideration is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If for any reason it is not in such condition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney for a telephone interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be due, or to credit any overpayments made, to Deposit Account No. 50-0231.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 30 May 2006By: 

Neil E. Hamilton

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